

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF VAHAK AND
PARIS HOVNANIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. and Mrs. Vahak Hovnanian, who are this year's recipients of the Artistic Eminence Award presented by Pacific Encore Performances, for their outstanding commitment to the arts and music. These two remarkable individuals have served their community through numerous contributions to the economy, culture, and education.

Together, this couple's service to local, national, and the world community has been nothing short of extraordinary. In 1976, they began the Hovnanian School that started with only thirteen students in a church basement. Today the school consists of 200 students with a curriculum that focuses on multicultural studies as well as art, music, and theater. In 1998, the Hovnanians together with the Armenian Minister of Culture sponsored competitions in all cultural arts. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian started the Sayat Hoa Festival where Armenian artists could showcase their talent.

Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian are remarkable individuals in their own right, and should be celebrated for their personal accomplishments as well as those they accomplish together. In 1952, Mr. Hovnanian emigrated from Baghdad to America in pursuit of higher education. After receiving his degree in physics, he and his three brothers formed the Hovnanian Brothers Corporation, building homes in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. In 1969, the brothers chose to separate and form businesses of their own. It was at this time that Mr. Hovnanian became the founding chairman and president of the widely recognized residential and commercial real estate and development corporation, Hovbilt Inc. and Adelphia Water and Sewer Company. In addition, he and his son Shant created the V.S. Hovnanian Group, elevating them to a prominent status amongst New Jersey real estate developers, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists.

Yet, Mr. Hovnanian's ambitions did not stop with his business endeavors. He went on to become the president of the Howell Township Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the local Rotary Club, a Monmouth University trustee, and Chairman of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. In 1988, Mr. Hovnanian sponsored the first New Jersey Waterfront Marathon and underwrote the banquet honoring Olympic Marathon Trials.

Mrs. Paris Hovnanian has also accomplished much to be proud of. Born in Jerusalem, she too immigrated to America to further her education. She completed her Bachelors Degree in sociology and education and later attended Columbia University on scholarship for graduate studies. Mrs. Hovnanian is a co-founder of the New York Academy of Art

and an active participant in a host of charitable organizations where she exhibits her strong and effective leadership skills.

Mr. Speaker, Vahak and Paris Hovnanian have given back so generously to their community. Their tireless and selfless efforts have benefited those in America and around the world. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring these remarkable individuals, Mr. and Mrs. Vahak and Paris Hovnanian.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAUMEE, OHIO
KIWANIS CLUB

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1953, the Maumee, Ohio Kiwanis Club was chartered. This year, the organization proudly celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Its members through the years have fostered its growth, and "have demonstrated that service, hard work, and good fellowship bring individual satisfaction" according to its guide.

An integral part of Maumee's fabric, the Kiwanians have contributed much to the community in the club's half-century. Many students have received scholarships that have enabled them to further their higher education. Other young people have been able to participate in sports because of the Kiwanis Club's gifts and team sponsorships. Still more youth have had the opportunity to attend summer camp and recreational activities thanks to the Maumee Kiwanis. Senior citizens, too, have been helped by Kiwanis' donations to the Maumee Senior Center. The community at large has also benefited from Kiwanis civic offerings such as park maintenance and purchases to restore buildings of the Maumee Historical Society.

The Maumee Kiwanis Club is an able embodiment of the international organization's motto, "We Build." Through its efforts, all of the residents of Maumee but especially its children, have been built up and strengthened. Truly, Maumee Kiwanians have proudly upheld its theme: "Serving the children of the world." I am very pleased to recognize the achievements of the Maumee Kiwanis Club and congratulate its members past and present on 50 years of service as we look forward to 50 more. Onward.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A POSTAGE STAMP COMMEMORATING THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution calling on the U.S. Postal Service to honor the Fisk Jubilee Singers with a commemorative stamp.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are true heroes in the fight for civil rights and racial equality in education. Their heritage goes back more than one hundred and thirty years to just after the Civil War. These singers are part of a unique group of former slaves who made it their passion to achieve the kind of education that they did not have access to before emancipation. Their spirit has been felt all across this nation and around the world, and it is my honor to stand before you today to tell you about the legacy of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, whom I hold near to my heart.

The Fisk School was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, just after the end of the Civil War. This school was intended to transcend the racial divide, with the founders of the University opening the doors of education to all persons, regardless of their race. Recently emancipated slaves, ecstatic at the limitless possibilities for freedom offered by learning, took it upon themselves to create in the Fisk School an educational institution that would give to them a sense of profound moral purpose in the great American democracy. The sale of slave paraphernalia paid for the opening of the school, and in 1867 the Fisk School became Fisk University, now the oldest university in Nashville.

Fisk University's accomplishments in the advancement of educational opportunities for African-American's is far too long to mention here. I will tell you briefly that some of the most honored African-American artists, thinkers and activists attended or were involved with Fisk, including W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Charles Spurgeon Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, and Thurgood Marshall, to name a few of the more distinguished African-Americans. Indeed, Fisk University played an enormously profound role in the advancement of black learning and culture in America. I am both humbled by and proud of the time that I, too, spent at Fisk University. Many of the values I hold dear to my heart today I learned from my colleagues and professors at Fisk.

It was in 1871 that a group of students at Fisk University formed a choral group that they named the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Mr. Speaker, the Fisk Jubilee Singers have made a lasting contribution to racial equality

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.